



**King County**



## Customer Newsletter

June 2010

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### DDES customer service numbers

#### DDES General Customer Assistance

206-296-6600

#### Permit Application Appointments

206-296-6797

#### Billing Hotline

206-296-6659

#### DDES Records Center

206-296-6696

#### Media and Public Disclosure Inquiries

206-296-6682

#### DDES Director, John Starbard

206-296-6700

#### Deputy Director, Joe Miles

206-296-7179

#### Building and Fire Svcs. Director, Jim Chan

206-296-6740

#### Permit Center, Jarrod Lewis

206-296-6713

#### Plan Review, Chris Ricketts

206-296-6750

#### Building Inspections, Bernard Moore

206-296-6762

#### Code Enforcement, Deidre Andrus

206-296-6680

#### Current Planning, Lisa Dinsmore

206-296-7171

#### Land Use Division Director, Randy Sandin

206-296-6778

#### Engineering, Molly Johnson

206-296-7178

#### Clearing & Grading, Steve Bottheim

206-296-7144

#### Critical Areas, Steve Bottheim

206-296-7144

### Information for home construction projects this summer

The warmer spring and summer months inspire many homeowners to make improvements to their property. DDES wants to partner with homeowners in unincorporated King County and assist them in securing the proper building permits. The DDES website at [www.kingcounty.gov/permits](http://www.kingcounty.gov/permits) has a helpful FAQ section explaining which home improvement projects require permits. This same site also links customers to permit application materials and information about how to file a permit application. From the main DDES web page, simply look under **PERMITS** and click on **FAQ**.

The most common home improvement projects include roof replacement, decks, detached sheds and fencing. Some basic information on all of these project types is outlined below:

**Roof repair or replacement:** In unincorporated King County, basic roof repair or reroofing an existing building typically does not require a permit. A permit is required if a heavier covering, such as a tile roof, replaces an existing composition or wood shake roof. If the roof structure - trusses or rafters, for example - is altered, then a permit is also required.

**Deck construction:** In unincorporated King County, a permit is required to construct a deck or walking surface more than 30 inches above the ground. All structures more than 18-inches above the ground must also comply with zoning regulations and setbacks and be built according to the Residential Building Code.

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### Updating registered plans to the 2009 international codes

Effective July 1, 2010 all new building permit applications must comply with the 2009 International Building and Residential Codes as amended by the State of Washington. However, the State Building Code Council (SBCC) just passed an emergency rule delaying implementation of the 2009 Washington State Energy Code until October 29, 2010. SBCC will also conduct public hearings in September and October to determine if the Energy Code implementation should be further delayed until April 1, 2011.

DDES wants to save customers the time and expense of submitting updated registers twice in a short period of time. Therefore, DDES will pre-approve register plans immediately to verify conformance with the 2009 Building, Residential, and Energy Codes, even though the Energy Code implementation is being delayed. The Building and Residential portions still go into effect on July 1, 2010. DDES has prepared fill-in forms and plan cover sheets to assist designers in meeting the pending 2009 Energy Code provisions. These forms are available on line at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits/publications/forms.aspx>.

**For questions, contact Chris Ricketts, DDES Construction Services Supervisor at 206-296-6750.**

## Blackberry removal no longer requires a permit from DDES

**B**lackberry has recently been added to the Washington State Noxious Weed List. This means that a DDES permit is no longer required to clear large areas of blackberry from your property.

Best Management Practices for noxious weed removal still must be followed, however. These include:

1. Clearing is conducted with an approved farm plan, forest stewardship plan, or rural stewardship plan; or
2. The clearing is done with hand labor including hand-held mechanical tools, by mowing or by other similar methods; and
3. The area is vegetated with native plantings and stabilized against erosion; and
4. Herbicides are used in accordance with federal and state laws.

**Property owners should also see the King County Noxious Weed website at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds.aspx>.**



Clearing large areas of Blackberry from your property no longer requires a permit from DDES as long as Best Management Practices are followed during the removal process.

### Monitoring the burn ban status

**D**ue to a relatively wet spring, no burn ban has yet been called in unincorporated King County. However, as weather conditions become drier, property owners should carefully monitor the burn ban status to ensure that they do not inadvertently engage in illegal yard burning.

To monitor the burn ban status, the public can call the King County Fire Marshal's Office at 206-296-6763 or 1-800-323-BURN. To monitor the status online, log onto the DDES website at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/FireMarshal/BurnBanInfo.aspx>.

**Once the burn ban is in place:** Recreational campfires in fire pits are still allowed during a burn ban, if it is located on private property with the landowner's permission, and if it is built according to the specifications below. Recreational camp fires must:

1. Be built in a metal or concrete fire pit, such as those typically found in designated campgrounds;
2. Grow no larger than three feet across;
3. Be located in a clear spot free from any vegetation for at least ten feet in a horizontal direction, including a 20-foot-vertical clearance from overhanging branches;
4. Be attended at all times by an alert individual with immediate access to a shovel and either five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.

Once a burn ban is called, it should be in effect throughout the summer and/or until the local area receives a substantial level of sustained rain.

**The Fire Marshal web page also contains a helpful brochure on fire safety tips for rural homeowners at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/FireMarshal/BurnBanInfo.aspx>.**

### Home construction projects, cont'd.

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For information on zoning or setbacks, call the DDES Customer Information Line at 206-296-6600 or visit the DDES Permit Center for free technical assistance M-Th, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. DDES also has simple deck design details available online at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/ddes/forms/DeckHandoutResPrescripDesign.pdf>.

**Detached shed:** In unincorporated King County, property owners may build a detached residential storage shed with a floor area of 200-square-feet or less without a permit. All zoning requirements including setbacks, clearing limits and lot coverage requirements still apply. For information on zoning or setbacks, call the DDES Customer Information Line at 206-296-6600 or visit the DDES Permit Center for free technical assistance M-Th, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

**Fencing:** In unincorporated King County, fences can be constructed six-feet tall or less without the need to obtain a building permit. The fences can be located up to the property line except at street intersections or driveways. For detail on intersections and driveways, see the DDES FAQ web page at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits/FAQ.aspx>. Fences also can be located on top of retaining walls. The total height of the wall and fence cannot exceed ten feet with the fence portion not exceeding six feet in height.

**For additional information on permitting requirements for home improvement projects, call the DDES Customer Information Line at 206-296-6600; view the DDES Web site at [www.kingcounty.gov/permits](http://www.kingcounty.gov/permits); or contact Chris Ricketts, Construction Services Supervisor, at 206-296-6750.**